



INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 31 July 2008

Title: IMPROVING THE CITY COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL
PERFORMANCE

Report of: Director of Community Services

Report reference: CS56/08

Summary:

The report provides the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an annual updated progress report on improving the environmental performance of Carlisle City Council.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

In what areas can we challenge our environmental performance further? What should our priorities be and how can Members help to achieve them?

Recommendations:

That Infrastructure Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Osborn

Ext: 8579

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: CS 43/08

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: Environment & Infrastructure

Date of Meeting: 30th June 2008

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes

Inside Policy Framework

Title: Improving the City Council's Environmental Performance

Report of: Director of Community Services

Report reference: CS 43/08

Summary:

The report provides the Executive Committee with an updated progress report on improving the environmental performance of Carlisle City Council.

Recommendations:

It is RECOMMENDED that:

The report is received and referred to Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 31 July 2008 for consideration.

Contact Officer: Rachel Osborn

Ext: 8579

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The City Council continues to be proactive in improving its environmental performance and has over the past 12 months achieved awards for its efforts and embarked upon programmes in partnership with other organisations to continually challenge and improve its environmental performance.
- 1.2 In October 2007 the City Council as a whole received the Silver Cumbria Business Environment Network (CBEN) award for its environmental practices, the next step up from the previous year's Bronze award. Bousteads Grassing retained its Gold Award status for the fifth year running. The awards are based on internationally recognised standards and each organisation undergoes a visit from an auditor that assesses how they are continually striving to improve.
- 1.3 To support the CBEN Award, annual site specific environmental performance plans or 'registers' are devised by Team Managers and the Environmental Performance Team. The Environmental Working Group continues to meet on a regular basis to formulate, implement and communicate environmental initiatives on an authority wide basis, for example the Green Travel Plan.
- 1.4 In 2007 the City Council received Green Flag Award status for the Tullie House garden, Bitts Park, Hammonds Pond, Richardson Street Cemetery and the Crematorium. Green Flag Award key criteria includes environmental sustainability and conservation. In addition to this the Cemetery received the inaugural award for Environmental Awareness from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. The Cemetery was the first in the UK to offer a woodland burial option, in 1993. The Crematorium also accepts home-made and biodegradable coffins and shrouds. The design, management and installation of new cremators in 2007 has also improved the efficiency of gas consumption.
- 1.5 To address the environmental impact of the City Council's travel and transport related activities, a Green Travel Plan was produced and approved in principle by Council in April 2008. The Green Travel Plan is a statement of intent to be revised every three years and is accompanied by a separate annual action plan with further details of initiatives. Further detailed reports covering any financial and policy issues will be brought to the Executive following consultation with staff and any other necessary parties.
- 1.6 In November 2007 the City Council was selected by the Energy Saving Trust, to be one of a small number of local authorities to engage with a project that

demonstrates leadership in addressing climate change. The City Council has been selected because we are already doing some good work on the theme of environmental sustainability. The project aims to help the City Council develop a Carbon Action Plan that will deliver a strategic approach to the sustainable use of energy and demonstrate our commitment to the signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. The project focuses on strategic, services (housing, transport, planning, economic development), our own estate and wider community benefits. Workshops have been held with key Council Officers and Members to consider emerging actions and priorities. A draft action plan will be presented to the Executive in September as part of a draft City Council Climate Change Strategy.

- 1.7 An initial recommendation of the Energy Saving Trust project was that the City Council participate in the Carbon Trust Local Authority programme. The Carbon Trust is an independent body set up by government to work with the public and private sector to cut carbon emissions. Carlisle City Council has been accepted onto the 2008/09 programme along with the County Council, South Lakeland District Council and the Lake District National Park Authority. The 4 Authorities are looking to share best practice and work together on shared priorities.

The purpose of the Carbon Trust programme is to:

- Provide an analysis of our carbon footprint
- Calculate the value at stake - financial implications of rising energy costs
- Assess the opportunities to manage carbon emissions (CO₂) - feasibility of projects
- Develop and implement action plans for realising carbon savings

The Carbon Trust will also help the City Council deliver on the national performance indicator NI185 CO₂ reduction from local authority operations. A strategy and implementation plan will be brought to Executive with details of carbon reduction projects.

- 1.8 The work with both the Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust will help to form the basis of a Climate Change Strategy for the City Council. The City Council is also contributing to the Cumbria Climate Change Task Group which is representative of the Cumbria Strategic Partnership. This group has drafted and consulted upon a Climate Change Strategy for Cumbria which will in due course also help shape the City Council's own Climate Change Strategy.

2.0 PROGRESS ON THE CITY COUNCIL'S MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

2.1 Travel

- 2.1.1 In 2007/08 City Council Staff and Members travelled 25,082 less miles for City Council business than in 2006/07. This equates to a reduction in 7.2 tonnes in CO₂. This is continued improvement on the 2005/06 levels that also saw a decrease. A system is now in place to monitor the fuel used in hire cars and further work is required in capturing data on business journeys made on foot and by bicycle.

Business Travel

	2007-08		2006-07	
	Miles	CO ₂ (tonnes)	Miles	CO ₂ (tonnes)
Councillors	29,065	8.3	40,090	11.5
Staff	339,688	97.3	353,745	101.3
Total	368,753	105.6	393,835	112.8

- 2.1.2 Our fleet transport (e.g. trucks, vans, ride on mowers) continued the trend of rising CO₂ emissions with an increase of 19 tonnes on 2006/07 levels. This is consistent with the expansion of our kerbside recycling collection service that requires more diesel to fuel the additional rounds.

Fleet transport - Fuel consumption (litres) and CO₂ emissions (tonnes)

Year	Diesel	Petrol	LPG	Gas Oil	Total CO ₂
2007/08	418,578	13,952	0	37,526	1,234
2006/07	413,684	15,367	1,572	33,200	1,215

2.2 Energy use in buildings

- 2.2.1 Energy use in Council buildings continues to be a significant source of CO₂ emissions accounting for 2,647 tonnes in 2007/08. Results show that in 2007/08 our total gas consumption decreased by 1,298,883 kw/h compared to 2006/07. Our electricity consumption increased by 59,644 k/wh compared to 2006/07. Overall emissions from use of energy in buildings decreased by 209 tonnes.
- 2.2.2 Reductions have been achieved through green design measures, maintenance management, staff awareness and training. Through these determined actions we

have improved energy efficiency of buildings and equipment for example heating controls; lighting controls, increased monitoring all of which have had a major effect on energy consumption. Although more than half of our buildings are now using 'green' electricity, for the purpose of this report we have discounted this when calculating our carbon emissions until there is clearer guidance on green tariffs.

- 2.2.3 For the LP180 performance indicator, a target reduction in CO₂ over three of our sites (Civic Centre, Crematorium, and Bousteads Grassing) was set for 2007/08. This was achieved over and above the 5% that we set on 2006/07 except at Bousteads Grassing, where there was a 2% reduction.

Buildings (Gas)

	2007-08		2006-07	
	Kw/h	CO₂ (tonnes)	Kw/h	CO₂ (tonnes)
Tullie House	1,684,257	312	1,733,728	321
Crematorium	1,067,623	198	1,968,761	364
Civic Centre	736,504	136	1,052,754	195
Bousteads Grassing	410,435	76	478,314	88
Irthing Centre	363,839	67	343,405	64
Talkin Tarn #	-	5	-	5
Others	469,984 *	87 *	454,563	84
Totals	4,732,642 *	881	6,031,525	1,121

* Provisional (1 site awaiting final bill) # Talkin Tarn uses bottled gas, and so is not measured in kw/h

Buildings Electricity (Fossil Fuel Only)

	2007-08		2006-07	
	Kw/h	CO₂ (tonnes)	Kw/h	CO₂ (tonnes)
Tullie House	1,155,269	604	1,201,805	629
Civic Centre	1,053,905	551	979,853	512
Bousteads Grassing	267,544	140	252,559	132
Crematorium	50,038	26	45,934	24
Others	850,000 *	445 *	836,781	438
Totals	3,376,756 *	1,766 *	3,316,932	1,735

* Provisional. Awaiting final bills.

2.3 Operational waste

- 2.3.1 Due to the diversity of roles the City Council undertakes, a number of different wastes are produced from our operations like paper and metal. The reduction and recycling of waste is an ongoing task. On site facilities for recycling materials like

plastic, paper, metal, cardboard, glass, oil, tyres, light bulbs, green waste and more are helping to divert waste away from landfill. Like other environmental aspects, opportunities for reducing and recycling waste are highlighted during the preparation of the site specific environmental performance registers.

2.4 Procurement

2.4.1 As well as now having a corporate policy on sustainable procurement other developments over the past 12 months includes a switch to purchasing 'green' electricity for more than half of our sites and a reduction in the amount of paper purchased. In 2007-08 the Council used 673,600 fewer sheets of paper for office printing and photocopying than in 2006-07. In addition the City Council is continuing the switch to using recycled paper for standard printing and photocopying jobs.

2.4.2 The City Council is a supporter of Fairtrade contributing to the work of the Carlisle Fairtrade Steering Group as well as offering Fairtrade products at Talkin Tarn, Tullie House and for meetings.

2.5 Carbon emissions

2.5.1 Guidance from DEFRA has been used to calculate what the carbon emissions (CO₂) or 'carbon footprint' is of the City Council operations.

Carbon Footprint

Sector	2007/08	2006/07	Change
Buildings (Electricity)	1,766	1,735	+ 1.8%
Buildings (Gas)	881	1,121	- 21.4%
Street Lights	239	241	-1%
Fleet Transport	1,234	1,215	+ 1.5%
Business Travel	106	113	- 6.3%
Oil (Non-fleet)	4	6	- 28.6%
Total	4,230	4,430	-4.5%

2.5.2 The total CO₂ reduction is largely due to a reduction in gas consumption at the Crematorium and Civic Centre.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Overall the City Council is demonstrating ongoing improvements in its environmental performance and is now working towards the CBEN Gold Award for environmental management.
- 3.2 In addition the City Council is taking the opportunity of working with organisations like the Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust to help us challenge our environmental performance even further.
- 3.3 As part of a Climate Change Strategy the Council will need to agree targets for reducing carbon emissions. Actions to deliver this will have a financial cost, in some instances investment will have a pay back period.

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation to date
The City Council's Environmental Working Group
- 4.2 Consultation proposed
Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that:

The report is received and referred to Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 31 July for consideration.

5.1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the environmental performance of the Council.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – The Environmental Performance Team is responsible for co-ordinating and encouraging improvements in environmental performance
- Financial – Improvements in environmental performance can help deliver efficiencies in terms of fuel, energy etc, but may require investment to achieve. Details will be set out in subsequent reports incorporating Action Plans.

- Legal – Keeping up to date with applicable environmental legislation is a key part of the CBEN Awards and production of environmental registers. The Climate Change Bill sets targets for reduction in carbon emissions.
- Corporate – This work is consistent with the corporate aims of Cleaner, Greener, Safer.
- Risk Management – Improving environmental performance helps to identify and reduce the City Council's operational environmental risks.
- Equality Issues – None identified.
- Environmental – The production of this report is consistent with the City Council's Environmental Policy and environmental management system.
- Crime and Disorder – None identified.
- Impact on Customers – None identified.